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Analysis of Technology Improvement Opportunities for a 1.5 MW Wind Turbine using a Hybrid Stochastic Approach in Life Cycle Assessment

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7

8 **Abstract:** This paper presents an analysis of potential technological advancements for a 1.5 MW
9 wind turbine using a hybrid stochastic method to improve uncertainty estimates of embodied
10 energy and embodied carbon. The analysis is specifically aimed at these two quantities due to the
11 fact that LCA based design decision making is of utmost importance at the concept design stage. In
12 the presented case studies, better results for the baseline turbine were observed compared to
13 turbines with the proposed technological advancements. Embodied carbon and embodied energy
14 results for the baseline turbine show that there is about 85% probability that the turbine
15 manufacturers may have lost the chance to reduce carbon emissions, and 50% probability that they
16 may have lost the chance to reduce the primary energy consumed during its manufacture. The paper
17 also highlights that the adopted methodology can be used to support design decision making and
18 hence is more feasible for LCA studies.

19 **Keywords:** Embodied energy; Embodied carbon; Technology Improvement Opportunities;
20 Uncertainty; LCA; 1.5 MW wind turbine

List of symbols and abbreviations

LCA Life Cycle Assessment

EEC Embodied energy coefficient

EF	Emission Factor
DQI	Data Quality Indicator
HDS	Hybrid Data Quality Indicator and Statistical
MCS	Monte Carlo Simulation
K-S	Kolmogorov-Smirnov
MRE	Mean Magnitude of Relative Error
M_{HDS}	Mean of HDS result
M_{DQI}	Mean of DQI result
CV	Coefficient of Variation
σ	Standard deviation
μ	Mean
N_M	Least number of data points required
N_{MD}	Least number of required data points for individual parameter distribution estimation
N_p	Number of parameters involved
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
MW	Megawatt
TIO	Technology Improvement Opportunities
CFRP	Carbon Fibre Reinforced Plastic
PDF	Probability distribution function
CDF	Cumulative distribution function

21

22 **1.0 Introduction**

23 The development of efficient and cleaner energy technologies and the use of renewable and
24 new energy sources will play a significant role in the sustainable development of a future energy
25 strategy (Ghenai, 2012; Weitemeyer et al., 2015). It is highlighted in International Energy Agency
26 (2013) that the development of cleaner and more efficient energy systems and promotion of
27 renewable energy sources are a high priority for (i) economic and social cohesion, (ii) diversification
28 and security of energy supply and (iii) environmental protection. Electricity generation using wind
29 turbines is generally regarded as key in addressing some of the resource and environmental
30 concerns of today. According to the World Wind Energy Association (2014), wind energy technology
31 has steadily improved and costs have declined. This technological progress is obvious in the
32 movement to better wind conditions and shift to higher nominal power of wind turbines (Wang and
33 Sun, 2012; Weinzettel et al., 2009). However, all renewable systems for converting energy into

34 usable forms such as electricity have environmental impacts associated with them (Davidsson et al.,
35 2012; Kelly et al., 2014) and is an important issue in mainstream debate. Further, as pointed out by
36 Chen et al. (2011) and Yang et al. (2013), it is essential that the long term sustainability of such
37 systems are scrutinized to support the astonishing growth (actual plus planned) of wind farms as
38 well as to allow policy makers to take robust decisions to mitigate climate change through the
39 implementation of this technology at the design stage.

40

41 The production of renewable energy sources, like every other production process, involves
42 the consumption of natural resources and energy as well as the release of pollutants (Ardente et al.,
43 2008). Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a popular way of measuring the energy performance and
44 environmental impacts of wind energy (Davidsson et al., 2012; Martínez et al., 2010). Hammond and
45 Jones (2008) defined embodied energy of a material as the total amount of primary energy
46 consumed over its life cycle. This would normally encompass extraction, manufacturing and
47 transportation and the terminology has been in use for over four decades (Constanza, 1980). In a
48 similar fashion embodied carbon refers to the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions (expressed as
49 carbon dioxide equivalents – CO₂e) that occur during the manufacture and transport of a material
50 (Chen et al., 2011). Embodied energy and embodied carbon assessments are considered a subset of
51 LCA studies.

52 Embodied energy and embodied carbon are traditionally estimated deterministically using
53 single fixed point input values to generate single fixed point results (Lloyd and Ries, 2007). Lack of
54 detailed production data and differences in production processes result in substantial variations in
55 emission factor (EF) and embodied energy coefficient (EEC) values among different life cycle
56 inventory (LCI) databases (Sugiyama et al., 2005; Wang and Shen, 2013). Hammond and Jones (2008)
57 notes that a comparison of selected values in these inventories would show a lot of similarities but
58 also several differences. These variations termed as “data uncertainty” in Huijbregts (1998)
59 significantly affect the results of embodied energy and embodied carbon LCA studies. Uncertainty is
60 unfortunately part of embodied carbon and energy analysis and even data that is very reliable
61 carries a natural level of uncertainty (Kabir et al., 2012; Hammond and Jones, 2008). Hence, the
62 analysis of data uncertainty is a significant improvement to the deterministic approach because it
63 provides more information for decision making (Wang and Shen, 2013; Kabir et al., 2012; Sugiyama
64 et al., 2005; Tan et al., 2002).

65 A number of generally accepted and well understood methods such as stochastic modelling,
66 analytical uncertainty propagation, interval calculations, fuzzy data sets and scenario modelling are
67 normally used to propagate uncertainty in LCA analysis. In a survey of approaches used to
68 incorporate uncertainty in LCA studies, Lloyd and Ries (2007) have found that the majority of the
69 published work employed scenario modelling to propagate uncertainty on LCA outcomes (Martínez
70 et al., 2010; Guezuraga et al., 2012; Greening and Azapagic, 2013; Demir and Taşkın, 2013; Tremeac
71 and Meunier, 2009; Zhong et al., 2011; Uddin and Kumar, 2014; Garrett and Rønne, 2013;
72 Zimmermann, 2013; Padey et al., 2012; Oebels and Pacca, 2013; Martínez et al., 2009; Aso and
73 Cheung, 2015), while only three (Kabir et al., 2012; Fleck and Huot, 2009; Khan et al., 2005), have
74 employed stochastic modelling to propagate uncertainty. Of the twelve studies using scenario
75 modelling, all assessed scenarios using sensitivity analysis, while for the studies employing stochastic
76 modelling, all used Monte Carlo simulation with random sampling. The Monte Carlo analysis method
77 used by Kabir et al. (2012), Fleck and Huot (2009) and Khan et al. (2005) performs well for cases
78 when reliability of the uncertainty estimate is not of utmost importance. This method has a
79 drawback when applied, as due to its “rule of thumb” nature it may lead to inaccurate results. For
80 more reliable results, Lloyd and Ries (2007) highlights that the determination of significant
81 contributors to uncertainty, selection of appropriate distributions and maintaining correlation
82 between parameters are areas requiring better understanding.

83 In this study, a methodology (termed as HDS) for improving uncertainty estimate is
84 presented and discussed. The method employs the same basics as the Monte Carlo analysis but has
85 a key distinction, aiming at removing the drawback of the Monte Carlo analysis method by
86 employing a stochastic pre-screening process to determine the influence of parameter
87 contributions. The very reliable statistical method is then used to estimate probability distributions
88 for the identified critical parameters. By applying the HDS method to a baseline 1.5 MW wind
89 turbine and four Technology Improvement Opportunity variants (Cohen et al., 2008; Lantz et al.,
90 2012), the uncertainty estimates of embodied energy and embodied carbon are examined. This
91 methodology can be a very valuable tool for making informed decisions at the design stage in order
92 to make savings on embodied energy and embodied carbon by taking into consideration the
93 uncertainty estimates of these quantities. The overall contribution of this study is to present an
94 analysis of potential technological advancements for a 1.5 MW wind turbine using a hybrid
95 stochastic method to improve uncertainty estimates of embodied energy and embodied carbon. The
96 organisation of the content of this paper is as follows: Section 2 explains the fundamentals of the
97 methodology. Section 3 contains a description of the case studies and their background theory. In

98 Section 4 the results are analysed and discussed. Finally, in Section 5, conclusion and future work are
99 presented.

100 **2.0 Methodology**

101 Statistical and Data quality indicator (DQI) methods are used to estimate data uncertainty in
102 LCA with different limitations and advantages (Lloyd and Ries, 2007; Wang and Shen, 2013). The
103 statistical method uses a goodness of fit test to fit data samples characterizing data range with
104 probabilistic distributions if sufficient data samples are available (Wang and Shen, 2013). On the
105 other hand, the DQI method estimates data uncertainty and reliability based on expert knowledge
106 and descriptive metadata e.g. source of data, geographical correlation of data etc. It is used
107 quantitatively (Lloyd and Ries, 2007) and qualitatively (Lloyd and Ries, 2007; Junnila and Horvath,
108 2003). Compared to the statistical method the DQI costs less, although it is less accurate than the
109 statistical method (Wang and Shen, 2013; Tan et al., 2002). The statistical method is preferred when
110 high accuracy is required, though its implementation cost is high (Wang and Shen, 2013; Sugiyama et
111 al., 2005). The DQI method is generally applied when the accuracy of the uncertainty estimate is not
112 paramount, or the size of the data sample is not sufficient enough for significant statistical analysis
113 (Wang and Shen, 2013).

114 Considering the trade-off between cost of implementation and accuracy, Wang and Shen
115 (2013) presented an alternative stochastic solution using a hybrid DQI-statistical (HDS) approach to
116 reduce the cost of the statistical method while improving the quality of the pure DQI method in
117 whole-building embodied energy LCA. The study focused on the reliability of the HDS approach
118 compared to the pure DQI without considering the effect of either approach on the decision making
119 process. An application test case to the analysis of embodied energy and embodied carbon of
120 potential 1.5 MW wind turbine technological advancements and the effect of these approaches on
121 decision making is presented here to validate the methodology.

122

123 **2.1 Embodied Energy and Embodied Carbon Estimation**

124 This study considers embodied energy and embodied carbon as the primary environmental
125 impacts to be investigated. Wang and Sun (2012) and Ortiz et al. (2009) express embodied carbon
126 and embodied energy mathematically as follows:

$$Embodied\ Carbon = \sum_{i=1}^n Q_i \times EF_i \quad (1)$$

$$Embodied\ Energy = \sum_{i=1}^n Q_i \times EEC_i \quad (2)$$

127 Where

128 Q_i = Quantity of material i

129 EEC_i = Embodied energy coefficient of material i

130 EF_i = Emission factor of material i

131 Since the purpose of the different wind turbine designs is electricity production, the functional unit
 132 is defined as 'generation of 1 kWh of electricity'. The scope of the study for all the wind turbine
 133 design options considered is from 'cradle to gate'.

134 **2.2 Qualitative DQI method**

135 Qualitative DQI uses descriptive indicators, often arranged as a Data Quality Indicator (DQI)
 136 matrix (Table 1), to characterize data quality. Rows in the matrix represent a quality scale, ranging
 137 from 1 to 5. Columns represent data quality indicators such as age of the data, reliability of the data
 138 source etc. General quality for a data is specified by an aggregated number that takes into account
 139 all the indicators. For example if three indicators are assigned scores of (1, 3, 5) respectively for a
 140 given parameter, and the indicators are equally weighted, the parameter's aggregated DQI score is P
 141 $= 1 \times 1/3 + 3 \times 1/3 + 5 \times 1/3 = 3$.

	Quality Scale				
Data Quality Indicators	1	2	3	4	5
Data representativeness	Representativeness unknown or incomplete data from insufficient sample of sites and/or for a shorter period	Data from a smaller number of sites for a shorter period, or incomplete data from an adequate number of sites and periods	Representative data from an adequate number of sites but for a shorter period	Representative data from a smaller number of sites but for an adequate period	Representative data from a sufficient sample of sites over an adequate period to even out normal fluctuations
Age	≥15 years old	<15 years old	<10 years old	<6 years old	<3 years old
Acquisition	<u>Non-qualified</u>	Qualified	<u>Calculated</u>	Calculated	<u>Directly</u>

method	estimation	estimation by experts	data partly based on assumptions	data based on measurements	measured data
Supplier independence	Unverified information from enterprise interested in the study	Unverified information from irrelevant enterprise	Independent source but based on unverified information	Verified data from enterprise with interest in the study	Verified data from independent source
Geographical correlation	Unknown area	Data from an area with slightly similar production conditions	Data from an area with similar production conditions	Average data	Data from the exact area
Technological correlation	Data from process related of company with different technology	Data from process related of company with similar technology	Data from process studied of company with different technology	Data from process studied of company with similar technology	Data from process studied of the exact company with the exact technology
Rule of inclusion/exclusion	Unknown	Non-transparent on exclusion but specification of inclusion	Transparent, not-justified, uneven application	Transparent, justified, uneven application	Transparent, justified, homogeneous application

142 Table 1: Data Quality Indicator (DQI) matrix based on NETL (2010), Weidema and Wesnæs (1996)
143 and Junnila and Horvath (2003).

144 2.3 Quantitative DQI method

145 This method transforms aggregated DQI scores into probability distributions to enable
146 quantification of uncertainty using predefined uncertainty parameters. Data of different quality are
147 characterized by distinct probability distributions that are based on “rule of thumb”. Table 2 shows
148 the DQI transformation matrix usually used to transform aggregated DQI scores into beta functions
149 as shown in Equation (3):

$$f(x; \alpha, \beta, a, b) = \left[\frac{1}{b-a} \right] * \left\{ \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}{[\Gamma(\alpha) * \Gamma(\beta)]} \right\} * \left[\frac{x-a}{b-a} \right]^{\alpha-1} * \left[\frac{b-x}{b-a} \right]^{\beta-1} \quad (3)$$

$$150 \quad (a \leq x \leq b)$$

151 Where α , β are shape parameters of the distribution and a, b are designated range endpoints. The
 152 beta function is used due to the fact that “the range of end points and shape parameters allow
 153 practically any shape of probability distributions to be represented”.

Aggregated DQI scores	Beta distribution function	
	Shape parameters (α , β)	Range endpoints (+/- %)
5.0	(5, 5)	10
4.5	(4, 4)	15
4.0	(3, 3)	20
3.5	(2, 2)	25
3.0	(1, 1)	30
2.5	(1, 1)	35
2.0	(1, 1)	40
1.5	(1, 1)	45
1.0	(1, 1)	50

154 Table 2: Transformation matrix based on (Canter et al., 2002 and Weidema and Wesnæs, 1996).

155

156 2.4 HDS approach

157 The HDS approach involves four steps: (i) Quantitative DQI with Monte Carlo simulation
 158 (MCS); (ii) Categorization of parameters; (iii) Detailed estimation of probability distributions for
 159 parameters; and (iv) Final MCS calculation. The parameter characterization identifies the critical
 160 parameters based on the influence and degree of uncertainty of the parameters. The final stochastic
 161 results are generated through a MCS calculation.

162 2.4.1 Quantitative DQI with MCS

163 This step begins with assessing data quality using the qualitative DQI approach. All
 164 parameters used for the deterministic calculations are assessed using the DQI matrix. After
 165 calculation of the aggregated DQI scores, probability distributions for the parameters are
 166 determined using the transformation matrix (Table 2), and used as inputs for the MCS to carry out
 167 an influence analysis.

168 2.4.2 Categorization of parameters

169 The degree of parameter uncertainty is obtained in the data quality assessment process.
 170 Parameters are consequently classified into groups of four with DQI scores belonging to the intervals
 171 of (1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 4) and (4, 5) respectively. The group containing parameters with DQI scores
 172 within the interval of (1, 2) and (2, 3) show the highest uncertainty, and the group with parameters

173 scored within the interval of (3, 4) and (4, 5) represent the highest certainty. A parameter's influence
 174 on the final resulting uncertainty comes from a rank-order correlation analysis in MCS Eq. (4) and
 175 (5)).

$$IA_{p,q} = r_{p,q}^2 \left[\sum_p r_{p,q}^2 \right]^{-1} \times 100\% \quad (4)$$

176 Where $IA_{p,q}$ is the influence of input parameter p to output q ; $r_{p,q}$ is the rank-order correlation factor
 177 between input p and the output q . $r_{p,q}$ can be computed via:

$$r_{p,q} = 1 - \left[\frac{6}{(N^3 - N)} \right] \sum_{i=1}^N [\text{rank}(p_i) - \text{rank}(q_i)]^2 \quad (5)$$

178 Where $\text{rank}(p_i)$ and $\text{rank}(q_i)$ are the ranks of p_i and q_i among the N tuple data points.

179 **2.4.3 Detailed estimation of probability distributions for parameters**

180 The statistical method is applied to the process of probability distributions fitting for the
 181 critical parameters identified. Kolmogorov-Smirnov goodness of fit test (K-S test) is used to fit data
 182 samples due to its sensitivity to variations in distribution types in terms of shape and scale
 183 parameters, and its intrinsic exactness compared to other goodness of fit tests e.g. Chi-square test
 184 and Anderson-Darling (A-D) test. The statistic for the K-S test is defined as:

$$D = \max_{1 \leq i \leq N} \left[F(Y_i) - \frac{i-1}{N}, \frac{i}{N} - F(Y_i) \right] \quad (6)$$

185 Where F is the theoretical cumulative distribution of the distribution that is being tested, and N
 186 means N ordered data points Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_N .

187 For the non-critical parameters of lower uncertainty and influence, their probability distributions are
 188 estimated using the transformation matrix and the DQI scores, making the HDS approach more
 189 economical and efficient compared to the statistical method.

190 **2.4.4 Final MCS calculation**

191 The stochastic results are calculated by MCS algorithm, according to the input and output
 192 relationships, using the intricately estimated probability distributions for the parameters' as the
 193 inputs. Figure 1 shows the procedure for the HDS approach.

194

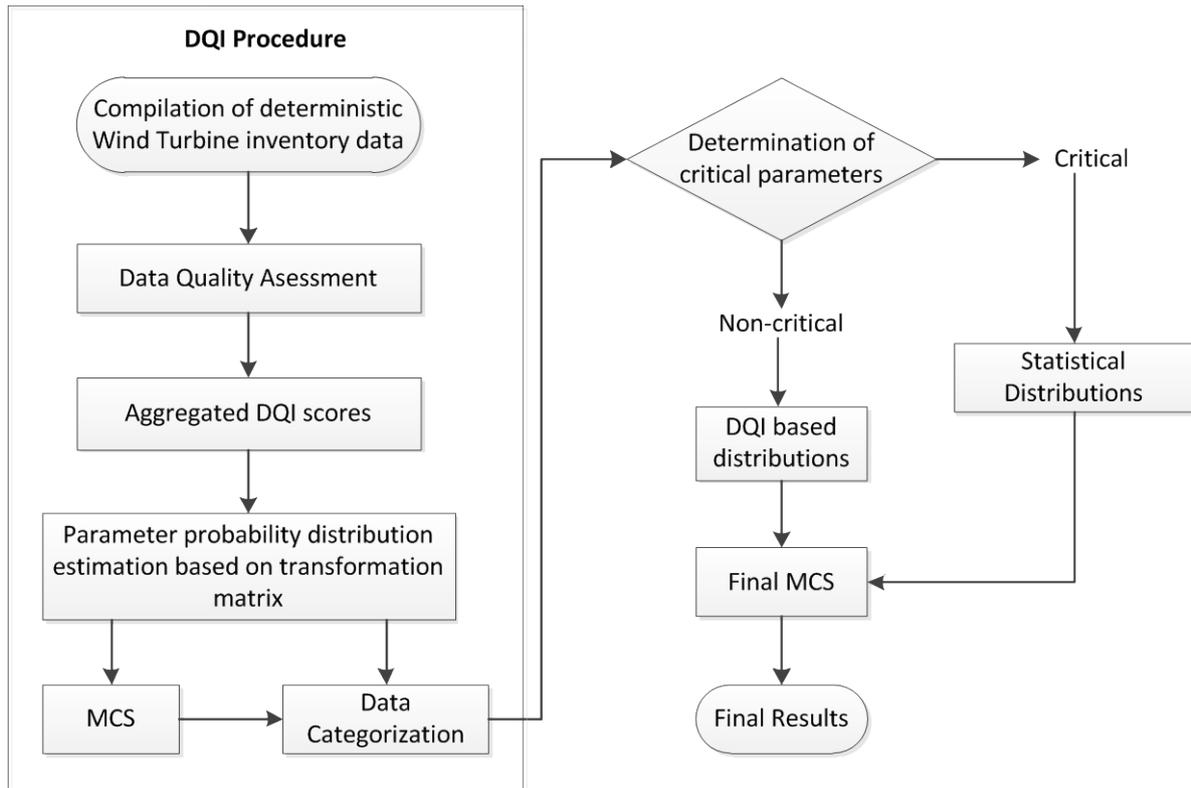


Figure 1: Procedure of HDS approach adapted from Wang and Shen, (2013)

195
196

197 2.5 Validation

198 To validate the HDS approach, comparisons are made between the pure DQI, statistical and
 199 HDS methods. The measurements Mean Magnitude of Relative Error (MRE) (Eq. (7)) and Coefficient
 200 of Variation (CV) (Eq. (8)) are used to measure the differences in the results of the pure DQI and
 201 HDS. CV is an indicator that shows the degree of uncertainty and measures the spread of a
 202 probability distribution. A large CV value indicates a wide distribution spread. The data requirements
 203 are also used to compare the HDS with the statistical method, as large enough sample size needs to
 204 be satisfied during parameter distribution estimation. The least number of data points necessary for
 205 estimating parameter distributions in each method is calculated (Eq. (9)) and compared.

$$MRE = \frac{(M_{HDS} - M_{DQI})}{M_{HDS}} \times 100\% \quad (7)$$

206 Where M_{DQI} is the mean of the DQI results and M_{HDS} is the mean of the HDS results

$$CV = \frac{SD}{M} \quad (8)$$

207 Where M is the mean and SD is the standard deviation

$$N_M = N_{MD} \times N_P \quad (9)$$

208 Where N_M is the least number of data points required; N_{MD} is the least number of required data
 209 points for individual parameter distribution estimation; N_p is the number of parameters involved.

210 **3.0 Case Studies**

211 Projections of future technological designs as a result of research and scientific
 212 developments, based on National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) 1.5 MW wind turbine
 213 technology forecasting studies (Cohen et al., 2008 and Lantz et al., 2012), provided the basis for
 214 modelling future inventory changes. Therefore, the assumptions regarding a reference from which
 215 progress is measured are the embodied energy and embodied carbon characteristics. A summary of
 216 the potential for technology advancements to increase the performance of a 1.5 MW wind turbine is
 217 presented in the following section.

218 **3.1 Baseline Turbine Characterization**

219 To project advances in reliability and performance of wind turbine systems, a baseline 1.5
 220 MW wind turbine technology must first be identified. This baseline technology will serve as a
 221 reference from which performance improvements are projected. The NREL’s baseline turbine
 222 technology characteristics represent an upwind, variable-pitch, variable-speed, three-bladed turbine
 223 that uses a doubly fed generator rated at 1.5 MW. The height of the tower is 65 meters and the
 224 rotor diameter is 70 meters. As such, an Enercon E-66 1.5 MW turbine was chosen as it shares
 225 similar technical characteristics to the NREL baseline turbine. A technical summary of the Enercon E-
 226 66 1.5MW turbine can be seen in Table 3 (Papadopoulos, 2010). The aggregated inventory data,
 227 presented in Table 4 (Papadopoulos, 2010), was used for deterministic estimation of embodied
 228 energy and embodied carbon. Since the material quantities were taken from the same source, they
 229 have little or no variations. The deterministic result estimate (Table 4) is used as a point of reference
 230 for comparing outputs of the stochastic estimation.

MODEL:	ENERCON E-66
Rated capacity:	1.5 MW
Rotor diameter:	70 m
Hub height:	65 m
Swept area:	3421 m ²
Converter concept:	gearless, variable speed, variable blade pitch
Rotor with pitch control	upwind rotor with active pitch control
Number of blades:	3
Rotor speed:	variable, 10 -22 rpm
Tip speed:	35 – 76 m/s
Pitch control:	three synchronized blade pitch systems with

Generator:	emergency supply direct-driven ENERCON synchronous ring generator
Grid feeding:	ENERCON inverter
Braking system:	3 independent pitch control systems with emergency supply

Table 3: E-66 technical characteristics (Papadopoulos, 2010)

Components	Materials	Mass (tons)	EF (ton CO ₂ /ton)	EEC (GJ/ton)	Embodied Carbon (ton CO ₂)	Embodied Energy (GJ)
Blades, nacelle	Aluminium	0.2	1.98	155	0.4	31
Blades, nacelle	Fibre glass	7.5	8.1	100	60.8	750
Blades	Epoxy resin	4.5	5.91	139.3	26.6	625.5
Blades	Polyethene	0.7	1.94	83.1	1.4	58.2
Blades, grid connection, foundation	PVC	2.1	2.41	77.2	5.1	162
Blades, tower, generator, nacelle	Paint	5.4	3.56	68	19.2	367.2
Blades	Rubber	0.2	3.18	101.7	0.6	20.3
Blades, grid connection	Iron	1.5	1.91	25	2.9	37.5
Tower	Steel	144.2	2.75	24.4	396.6	3518.5
Tower, generator, nacelle, grid connection	Galvanized steel	6.7	2.82	39	19	261.3
Generator, nacelle, grid connection	Copper	15.4	3.83	50	59	770
Generator, grid connection	Steel sheet	19.2	2.51	31.5	48.2	604.8
Generator, nacelle, foundation	Steel (no alloy)	37.3	1.77	34.4	66	1283
Generator, grid connection	Steel (alloy, high grade)	0.6	2.78	56.7	1.7	34
Nacelle, grid connection	Steel (alloy, low grade)	10	2.68	48.4	26.8	484
Nacelle	Cast Steel	3.7	2.83	25.4	10.5	94
Nacelle	Cast iron	21	1.9	26	40.7	546
Nacelle	Unsaturated polyester resin	2.2	1.94	113	4.2	248.6
Nacelle, grid connection	Electronics	2.5	2.73	80.5	6.8	201.3
Grid connection,	Steel (for	27	0.68	36	18.4	972

foundation	construction)					
Grid connection	Gear oil	0.9	3.62	55	3.3	49.5
Grid connection	Light weight concrete	12	0.13	0.77	1.6	9.24
Foundation	Normal concrete	575	0.2	1.39	115	799.3
	Sum	900.1			932	11910

232 Table 4: Deterministic estimation of embodied energy and embodied carbon for the Enercon E-66
233 1.5 MW turbine based on the aggregated inventory data in Papadopoulos (2010)

234 3.2 Technology Improvement Opportunities (TIOs)

235 According to Cohen et al. (2008) and Lantz et al. (2012), identification of TIO's relied on
236 judgements and technical insights of the senior research staff at the Sandia National Laboratories
237 and National Wind Technology Centre at the NREL. The design of wind turbines is a matter of
238 continuous compromise between the rival demands of greater energy productivity, lower cost,
239 increased durability and lifetime, and maintenance cost. Realizing greater energy production may
240 cost less or more. These are the designers' trade-offs captured in the model. Trade-offs between
241 wind turbine components is dealt with in the estimation of the input parameters. The outcome of
242 the details of the TIOs is summarized in Table 5.

Performance Improvement	Technology Pathway	Description
TIO 1	Advanced (Enlarged) Rotors	Stiffer carbon-fibre materials allowing for 25% rotor growth and 2% reduction in tower mass
TIO 2	Advanced Tower Concepts	New tower concepts using carbon-fibre materials and power production at 100 meters compared to 65 meters
TIO 3	Drivetrain Improvements	Permanent Magnet Generators that use permanent magnets instead of copper wound rotors
TIO 4	Fully Combined TIO's	A combination of all the potential technological advancements

243 Table 5: Potential contributions to wind turbine performance improvement

244 3.3 Mass Scaling Equations

245 To generate the material quantities for the different TIO's, information and scaling equations
246 were taken from an NREL study (Fingersh et al., 2006). The report contained information about how
247 the various components could be scaled using semi-empirical formulas. The equations used in this
248 study are defined in Table 6 as well as an indication as to where they were employed.

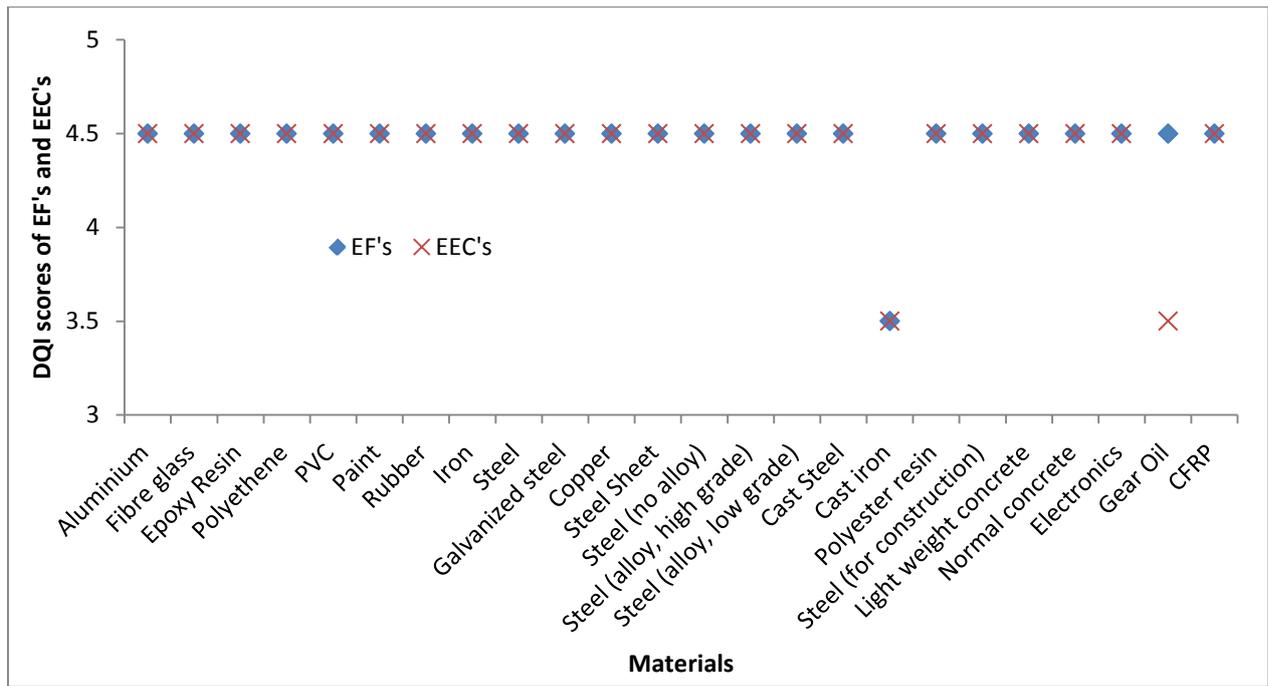
Component	Equation	Description
Blade	<i>Baseline: Mass = $0.1452 \times R^{2.9158}$ per blade</i> <i>Advanced: Mass = $0.4948 \times R^{2.53}$ per blade</i>	Where R = rotor radius. The advanced blade mass relationship follows products developed by a wind turbine blade manufacturer which “represents combinations of technology enhancements that may not/may include carbon and takes advantage of a lower-weight root design”.
Tower	<i>Baseline: Mass = $0.3973 \times$ swept area \times hub height – 1414</i> <i>Advanced: Mass = $0.2694 \times$ swept area \times hub height + 1779</i>	The baseline case is based on conventional technology for 2002, while the advanced case represents advanced technologies including reduced blade solidity in conjunction with higher tip speeds, flap-twist coupling in the blade and tower feedback in the control system.
Generator	<i>Mass = $5.34 \times$ machine rating^{0.9223}</i>	A generator mass calculation for the medium-speed permanent-magnet generator design was based on machine power rating in kW.

249 Table 6: Mass scaling equations for the different components

250 **4.0 Results and Analysis**

251 **4.1 Quantitative DQI transformation**

252 To appropriately transform the qualitative assessment results to the equivalent quantitative
253 probability density functions, Wang and Shen (2013) suggests that the aggregated DQI scores be
254 approximated to the nearest nominal value so as to use the transformation matrix. Figure 2 shows
255 the obtained aggregated DQI scores following the method described in section 2.1. The quantitative
256 DQI procedure was then used to transform the scores into Beta distributions, results of which are
257 shown in Table 7. Most of the data used in the study are of good quality and hence showed identical
258 transformed Beta function parameters ($\alpha = 4, \beta = 4$), the same DQI score of 4.5 and range end points
259 of $\pm 15\%$. The exceptions were Cast iron EF, Cast iron EEC and Gear oil EEC showing DQI scores of
260 3.5, transformed Beta function parameters of ($\alpha = 2, \beta = 2$) and range end points of $\pm 25\%$ making
261 them more uncertain.



262

263

Figure 2: Aggregated DQI scores for Emission Factors and Embodied Energy Coefficients

EF Parameters	Beta (α, β)	Range endpoints	EEC Parameters	Beta (α, β)	Range endpoints
Aluminium (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (1.7, 2.3)	Aluminium (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (131.8, 178.3)
Fibre glass (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (6.9, 9.3)	Fibre glass (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (85, 115)
Epoxy resin (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (5, 6.8)	Epoxy resin (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (118, 160)
Polyethene (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (1.7, 2.2)	Polyethene (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (70.6, 95.6)
PVC (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (2.1, 2.8)	PVC (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (65.6, 88.8)
Paint (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (3, 4.1)	Paint (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (57.8, 78.2)
Rubber (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (2.7, 3.7)	Rubber (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (86.4, 117)
Iron (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (1.6, 2.2)	Iron (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (21.3, 28.8)
Steel (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (2.3, 3.2)	Steel (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (20.7, 28)
Galvanized steel (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (2.4, 3.2)	Galvanized steel (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (33.2, 45)
Copper (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (3.3, 4.4)	Copper (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (42.5, 57.5)
Steel sheet (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) =	Steel sheet (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) =

		(2.1, 2.9)			(27, 36.2)
Steel (no alloy) (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (1.5, 2)	Steel (no alloy) (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (29.2, 39.6)
Steel (alloy, high grade) (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (2.4, 3.2)	Steel (alloy, high grade) (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (48.2, 65.2)
Steel (alloy, low grade) (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (2.3, 3.1)	Steel (alloy, low grade) (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (41, 55.7)
Cast Steel (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (2.4, 3.3)	Cast Steel (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (21.6, 29.2)
Cast iron (EF)	(2, 2)	(+/-25%) = (1.4, 2.4)	Cast iron (EEC)	(2, 2)	(+/-25%) = (19.5, 32.5)
Unsaturated polyester resin (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (1.7, 2.2)	Unsaturated polyester resin (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (96.1, 130)
Electronics (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (2.3, 3.1)	Electronics (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (68.4, 92.6)
Steel (for construction) (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (0.6, 0.8)	Steel (for construction) (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (30.6, 41.4)
Gear oil (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (3.1, 4.2)	Gear oil (EEC)	(2, 2)	(+/-25%) = (41.3, 69)
Light weight concrete (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (0.1, 0.2)	Light weight concrete (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (0.7, 0.9)
Normal concrete (EF)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (0.2, 0.2)	Normal concrete (EEC)	(4, 4)	(+/-15%) = (1.2, 1.6)

264 Table 7: Transformation of DQI scores to probability density functions

265 4.2 Parameter Categorization and Probability Distributions Estimation

266 Results of the influence analysis (10,000 iterations MCS) showing the two parameters
267 contributing the most to the resulting uncertainty is presented in Table 8. Two parameters, Steel and
268 CFRP, demonstrated the largest influence on the final resulting uncertainty of embodied energy and
269 embodied carbon across all case studies. For the parameters with a lesser contribution to the final
270 resulting uncertainty, there were variations across all case studies. Normal concrete and Carbon
271 fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP) show the lesser contribution for embodied carbon (ranging from 0.6%
272 to 17%), while Steel (no alloy), CFRP and Cast iron show the lesser contribution for embodied energy
273 (ranging from 0.5% to 9%) across all case studies. Combining these results, further analysis was
274 conducted on the two identified parameters for each test case using the statistical method, while
275 the values for the remaining parameters were obtained from the quantitative DQI. Probability
276 distributions were thus fitted to data points collected manually from literature. Results of the

277 estimated probability distributions for the different parameters are presented in Table 9. Beta
 278 distributions were fitted to the data points based on at least 30 points available in previous studies.

	Embodied Carbon	Influence (%)	Embodied Energy	Influence (%)
Baseline	Steel EF	78	Steel EEC	62
Turbine	Normal concrete EF	9	Steel (no alloy) EEC	9
TIO 1	Steel EF	66	Steel EEC	47
	CFRP EF	17	CFRP EEC	22
TIO 2	CFRP EF	99	CFRP EEC	97
	Normal concrete EF	0.3	Steel (no alloy) EEC	0.7
TIO 3	Steel EF	81	Steel EEC	66
	Normal concrete EF	8	Cast iron EEC	9
TIO 4	CFRP EF	98	CFRP EEC	97
	Normal concrete EF	0.6	Steel (no alloy) EEC	0.5

279 Table 8: Influence Analysis

Parameter	Probability Distribution	Mean	Data points collected	Source
Steel EF	Beta (1.2, 4.5)	1.7 tonCO ₂ /ton	30	Hammond and Jones, 2008; Fleck and Huot, 2009; Alcorn and Wood, 1998; Norgate et al., 2007; Rankine et al., 2006; Khan et al., 2005; Change, 2006; Hammond and Jones, 2011; Lee et al., 2011; Baird et al., 1997
Steel EEC	Beta (3, 4.2)	25.9 GJ/ton	31	
Normal concrete EF	Beta (20.8, 87.7)	0.1 tonCO ₂ /ton	31	Hammond and Jones, 2008; Hammond and Jones, 2011; Alcorn and Wood, 1998; Norgate et al., 2007; Rankine et al., 2006
Steel (no alloy) EEC	Beta (48.6, 62.3)	25.6 GJ/ton	31	Hammond and Jones, 2008; Alcorn and Wood, 1998; Norgate et al., 2007; Rankine et al., 2006; Khan et al., 2005; Change, 2006; Lee et al., 2011; Baird et al., 1997; Fernando, 2010
CFRP EF	Beta (3.2, 2.2)	52.4 tonCO ₂ /ton	31	Hill et al., 2011; Kiriwara et al., 2011; Pimenta and Pinho, 2011; Howarth et al., 2014; Douglas et al., 2008; Song et al., 2009; Rydh and Sun, 2005; Duflou et al., 2012
CFRP EEC	Beta (2.1, 6.2)	191.3 GJ/ton	31	
Cast iron EEC	Beta (36.6, 75.2)	35.4 GJ/ton	31	Fernando, 2010; Du et al., 2012; TERI, 2012; Hendrickson and Horvath, 2014; Sharma et al., 2013; Baum et al., 2009; Sefeedpari et al., 2012; Lenzen and Dey, 2000; Lenzen and Treloar, 2002; Baird et al., 1997

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Table 9: Probability distribution estimation for the different parameters

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282 **4.3 Stochastic Results Comparison of DQI and HDS Approaches for the Different Case Studies**

283 Embodied carbon and embodied energy stochastic results (10,000 iterations MCS) using the pure
 284 DQI and HDS methods were obtained for the baseline turbine and TIO's 1 - 4 the results of which are
 285 presented in this section. Results for each case study are presented graphically through probability
 286 distribution functions (PDF's) and cumulative distribution functions (CDF's) in Figures 3 – 12. In
 287 addition to these figures, MRE and CV values were also calculated. A summary of the relevant
 288 information is provided in Table 10.

	Embodied Carbon		Embodied Energy	
	DQI	HDS	DQI	HDS
Baseline Turbine	Beta distribution (4.5, 5.3) $\mu = 932 \text{ tonCO}_2$ $\sigma = 22 \text{ tonCO}_2$ CV = 0.02	Beta distribution (1.8, 5.1) $\mu = 733 \text{ tonCO}_2$ $\sigma = 183 \text{ tonCO}_2$ CV = 0.3 MRE = 27%	Normal distribution $\mu = 11909 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 218 \text{ GJ}$ CV = 0.02	Beta distribution (4.4, 4.7) $\mu = 11831 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 1424 \text{ GJ}$ CV = 0.1 MRE = 1%
TIO 1	Normal distribution $\mu = 1070 \text{ tonCO}_2$ $\sigma = 24 \text{ tonCO}_2$ CV = 0.02	Beta distribution (2.3, 5.2) $\mu = 1269 \text{ tonCO}_2$ $\sigma = 188 \text{ tonCO}_2$ CV = 0.2 MRE = 16%	Normal distribution $\mu = 13735 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 244 \text{ GJ}$ CV = 0.02	Beta distribution (3.8, 4.7) $\mu = 13276 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 1469 \text{ GJ}$ CV = 0.1 MRE = 3.5%
TIO 2	Beta distribution (5, 5.3) $\mu = 2475 \text{ tonCO}_2$ $\sigma = 96 \text{ tonCO}_2$ CV = 0.04	Beta distribution (5.8, 4.1) $\mu = 5521 \text{ tonCO}_2$ $\sigma = 1654 \text{ tonCO}_2$ CV = 0.3 MRE = 55%	Beta distribution (4.1, 4.8) $\mu = 31822 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 1166 \text{ GJ}$ CV = 0.04	Beta distribution (2.4, 4.7) $\mu = 24687 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 7608 \text{ GJ}$ CV = 0.3 MRE = 29%
TIO 3	Beta distribution (5.3, 5.7) $\mu = 849 \text{ tonCO}_2$ $\sigma = 22 \text{ tonCO}_2$ CV = 0.03	Beta distribution (1.6, 4.6) $\mu = 647 \text{ tonCO}_2$ $\sigma = 185 \text{ tonCO}_2$ CV = 0.3 MRE = 31%	Normal distribution $\mu = 10722 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 211 \text{ GJ}$ CV = 0.02	Beta distribution (3.8, 4.8) $\mu = 11249 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 1474 \text{ GJ}$ CV = 0.1 MRE = 5%
TIO 4	Gamma distribution (529, 4.8) $\mu = 2529 \text{ tonCO}_2$	Weibull distribution (4, 6621) $\mu = 5988 \text{ tonCO}_2$	Beta distribution (4.7, 4.5) $\mu = 32503 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 1304 \text{ GJ}$	Beta distribution (2.1, 4.6) $\mu = 24299 \text{ GJ}$ $\sigma = 8419 \text{ GJ}$

$\sigma = 108 \text{ tonCO}_2$	$\sigma = 1746 \text{ tonCO}_2$	CV = 0.04	CV = 0.4
CV = 0.04	CV = 0.3		MRE = 33%
	MRE = 58%		

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Table 10: Pure DQI and HDS results for the different case studies

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Probability distributions were fitted to the stochastic results according to K-S test. From the PDF's (Figures 3a – 12a), it can be seen that the mean value and standard deviation for the pure DQI and HDS results show rather different dispersion across all the case studies. The CV values of the HDS results are on average about 6 times larger than the CV values of the pure DQI results. In terms of MRE, the difference observed between the HDS and pure DQI results indicate that the HDS method captures more possible outcomes compared to the pure DQI. The differences between the deterministic, pure DQI and HDS results can be inferred from the CDF's (Figures 3b – 12b). Figure 3b for example shows that for the HDS result, about 85% of the likely resulting values are smaller than the deterministic result obtained while for the DQI result, 50% of the possible results are smaller than the deterministic result. Figure 5b also shows that for the HDS result about 15% of the likely results are smaller than the deterministic result while for the DQI result, half of the possible resulting values are lesser than the deterministic result. A comprehensive analysis of the implications of these results is presented in the discussion section.

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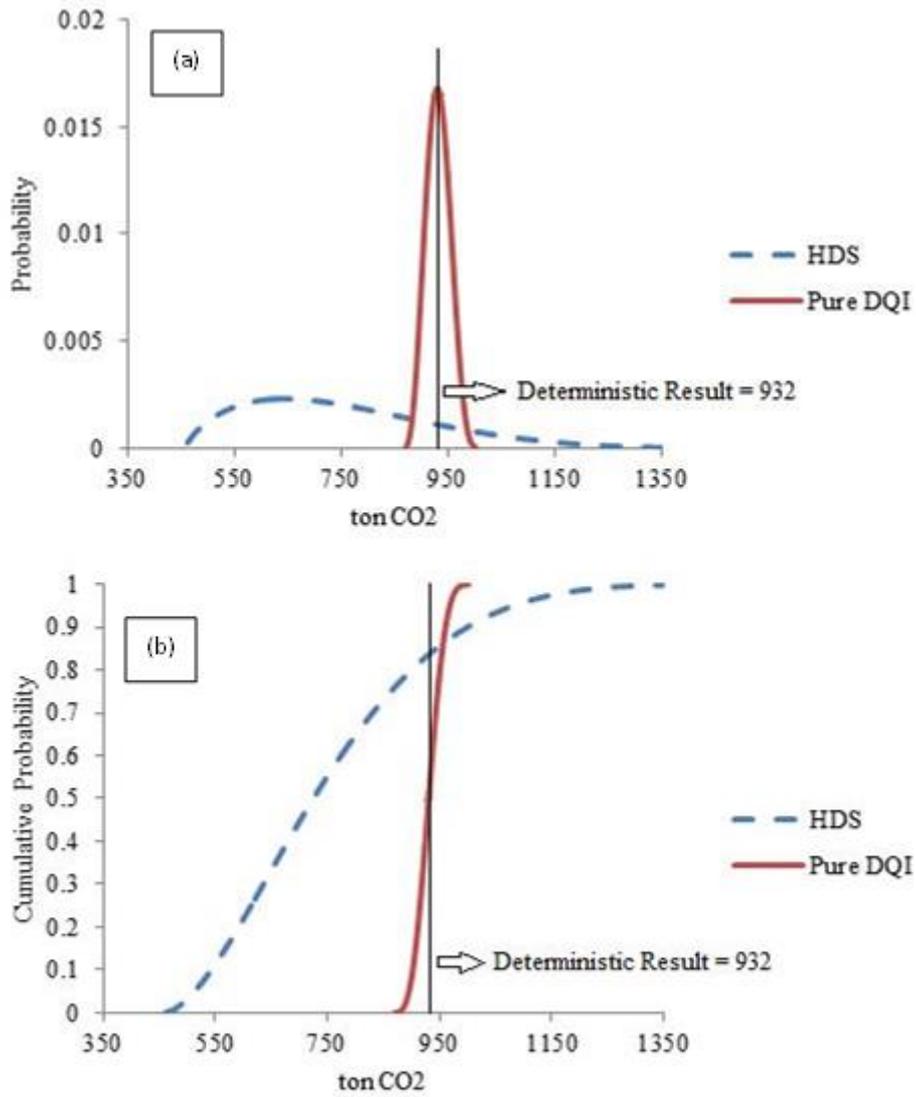
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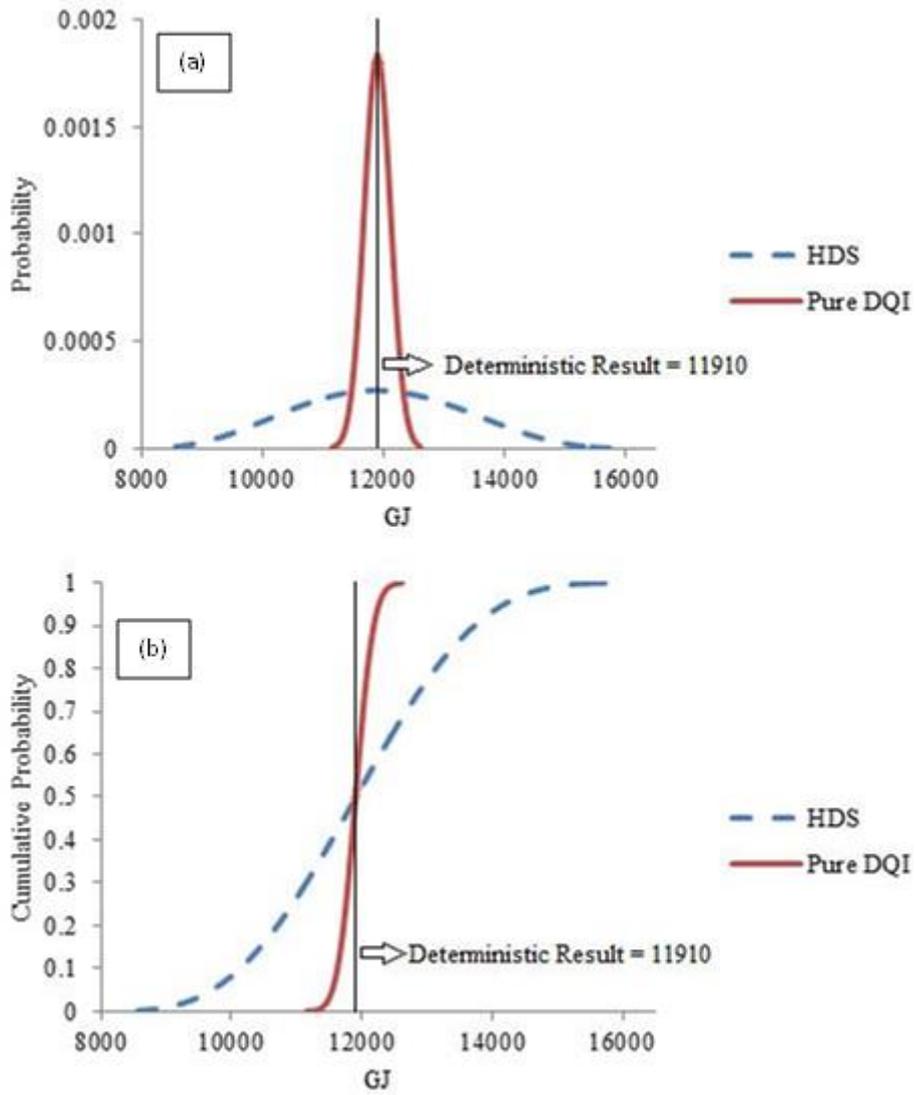
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314 Figure 3 (a) Baseline Turbine Embodied Carbon PDF results; (b) Baseline Turbine Embodied Carbon

315 CDF results



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317 Figure 4 (a) Baseline Turbine Embodied Energy PDF results; (b) Baseline Turbine Embodied Energy

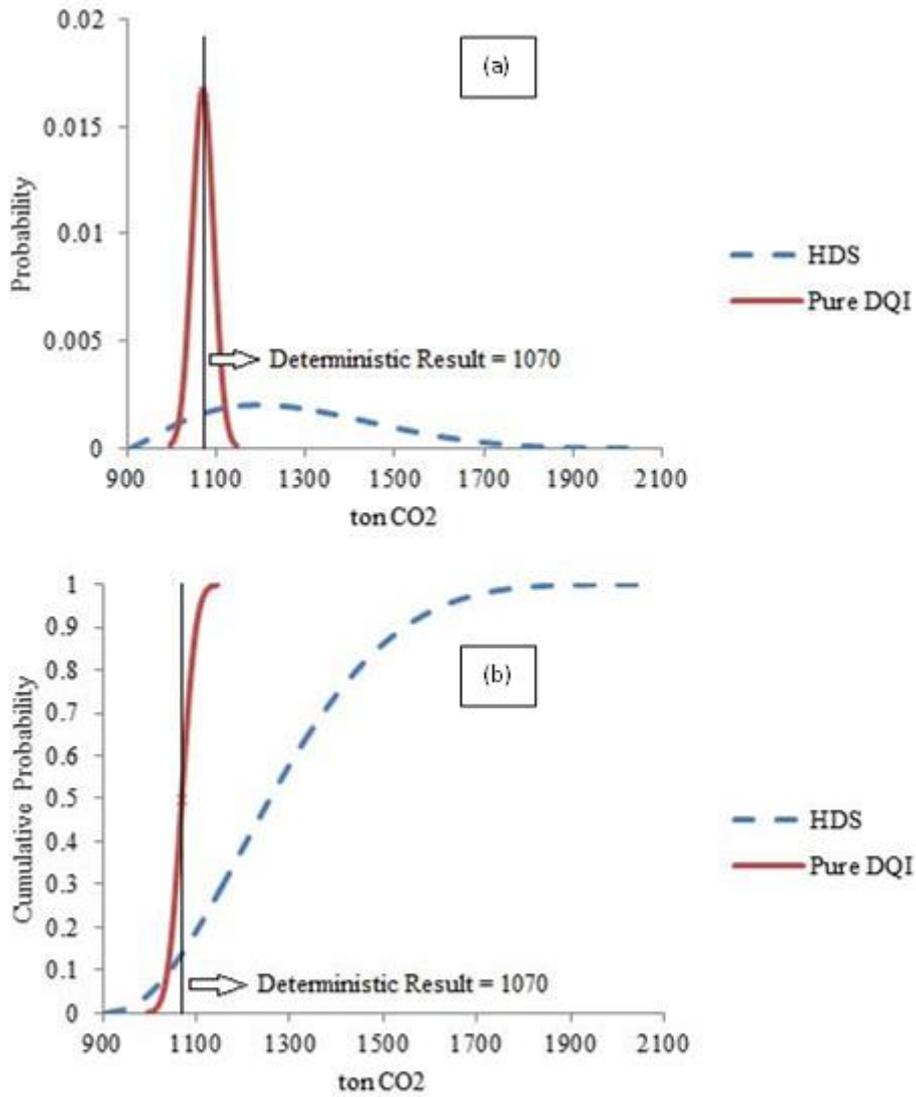
318 CDF results

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324 Figure 5 (a) TIO 1 Embodied Carbon PDF results; (b) TIO 1 Embodied Carbon CDF results

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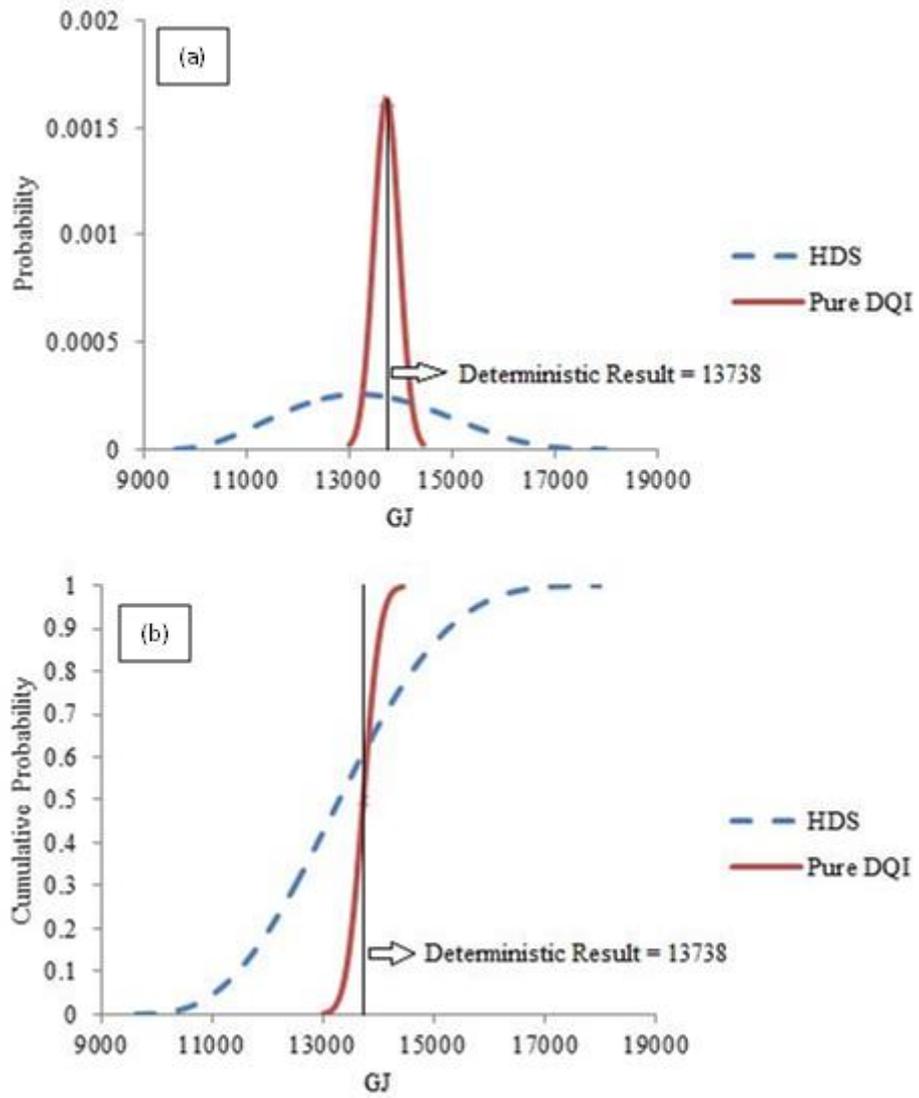
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332 Figure 6 (a) TIO 1 Embodied Energy PDF results; (b) TIO 1 Embodied Energy CDF results

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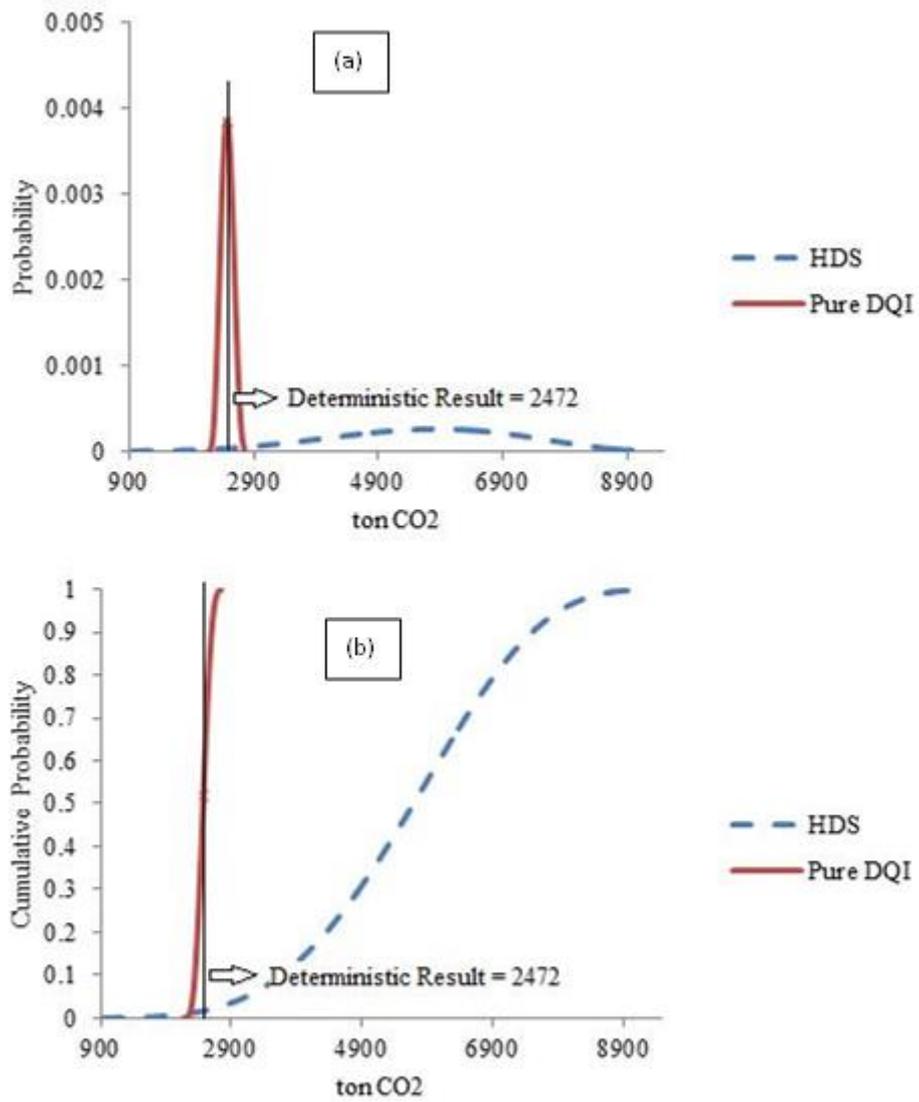
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341 Figure 7 (a) TIO 2 Embodied Carbon PDF results; (b) TIO 2 Embodied Carbon CDF results

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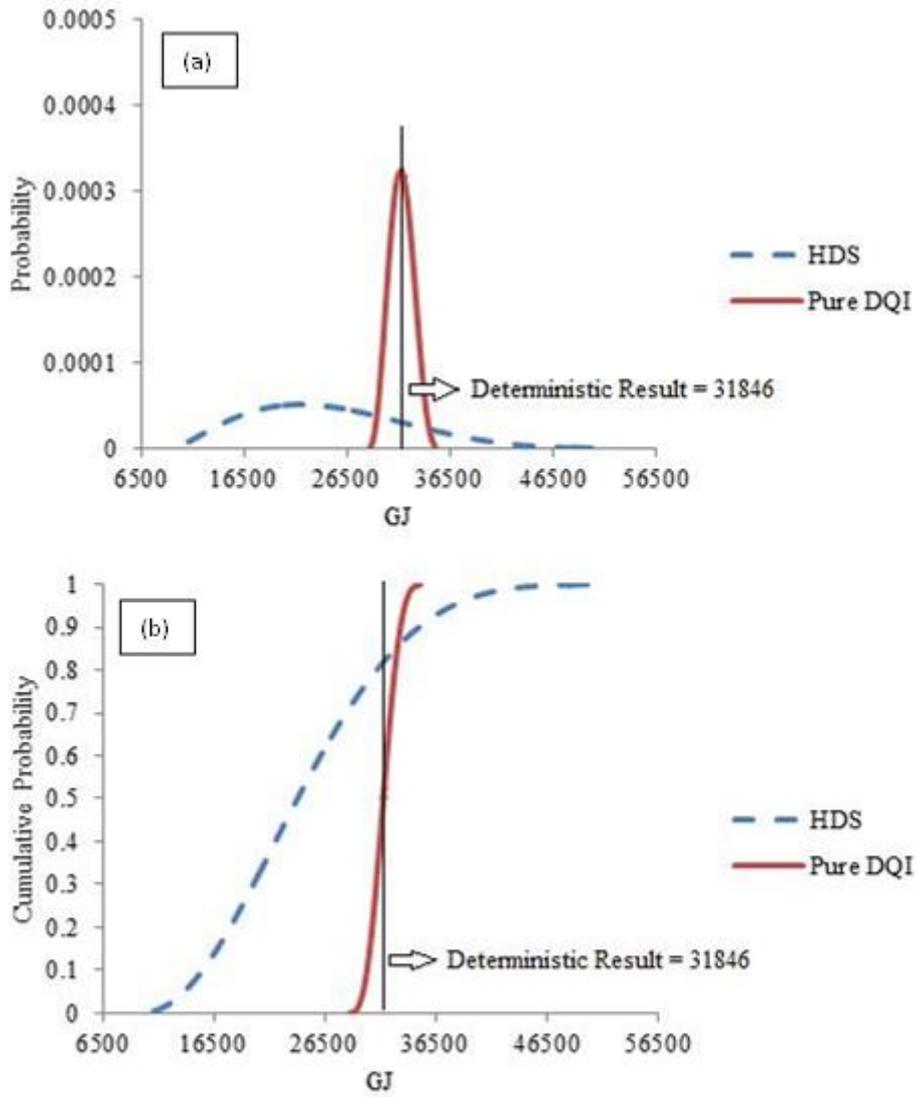
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Figure 8 (a) TIO 2 Embodied Energy PDF results; (b) TIO 2 Embodied Energy CDF results

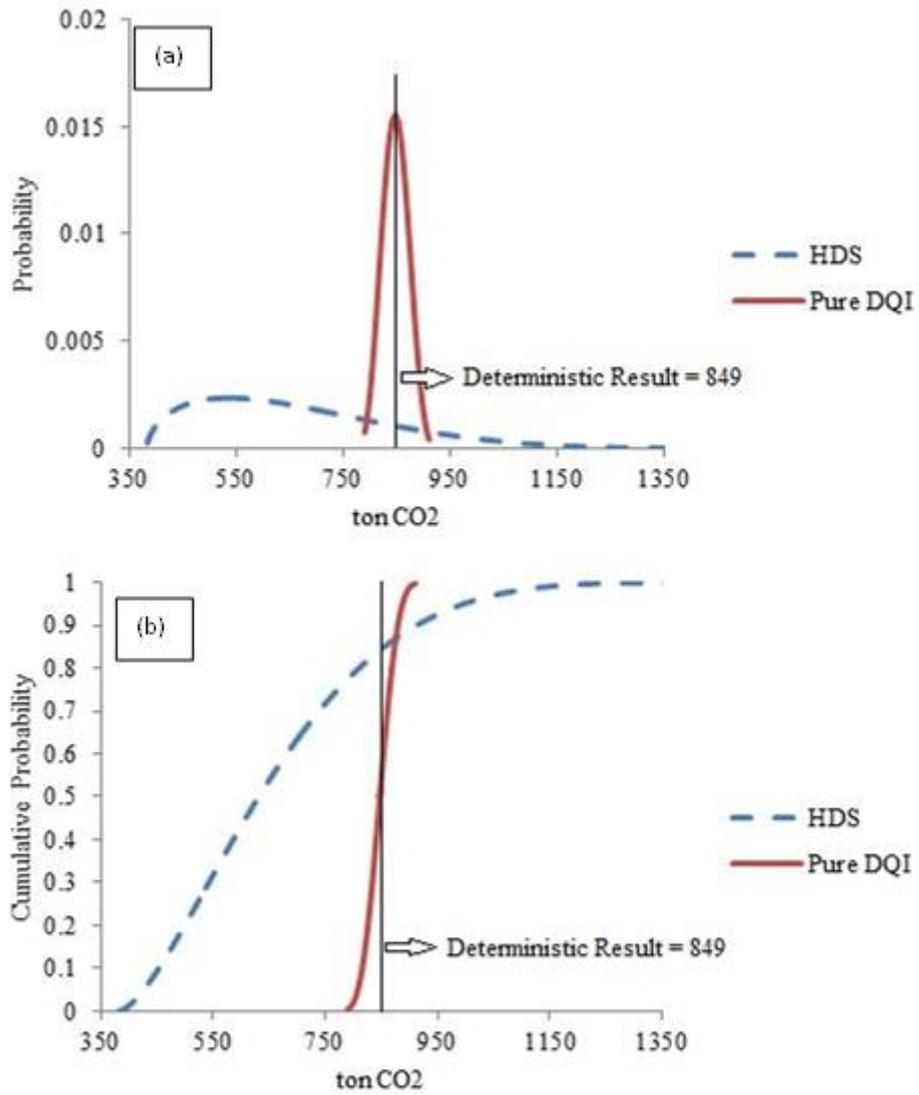
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356 Figure 9 (a) TIO 3 Embodied Carbon PDF results; (b) TIO 3 Embodied Carbon CDF results

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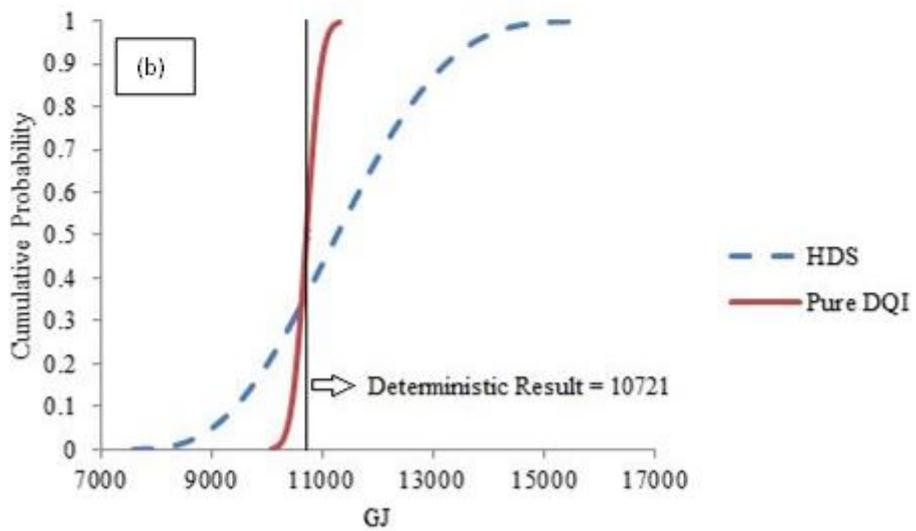
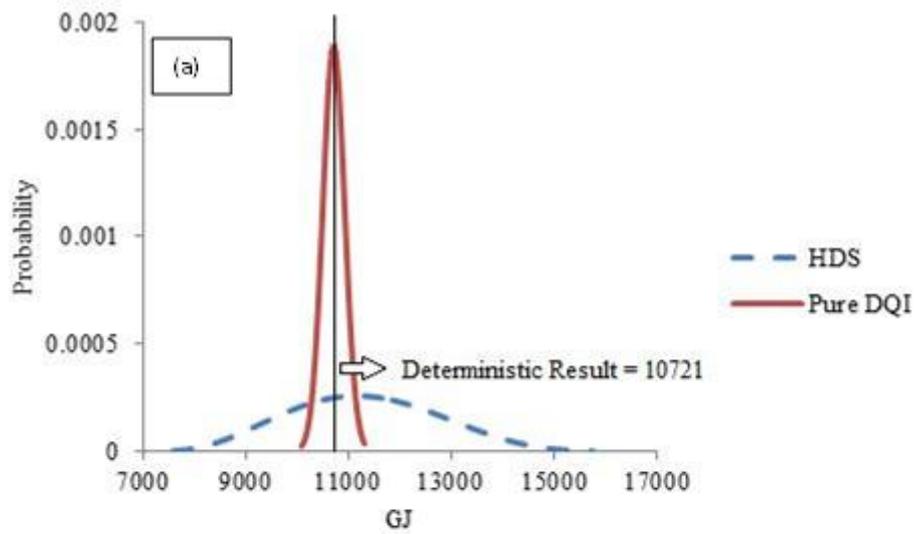
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Figure 10 (a) TIO 3 Embodied Energy PDF results; (b) TIO 3 Embodied Energy CDF results

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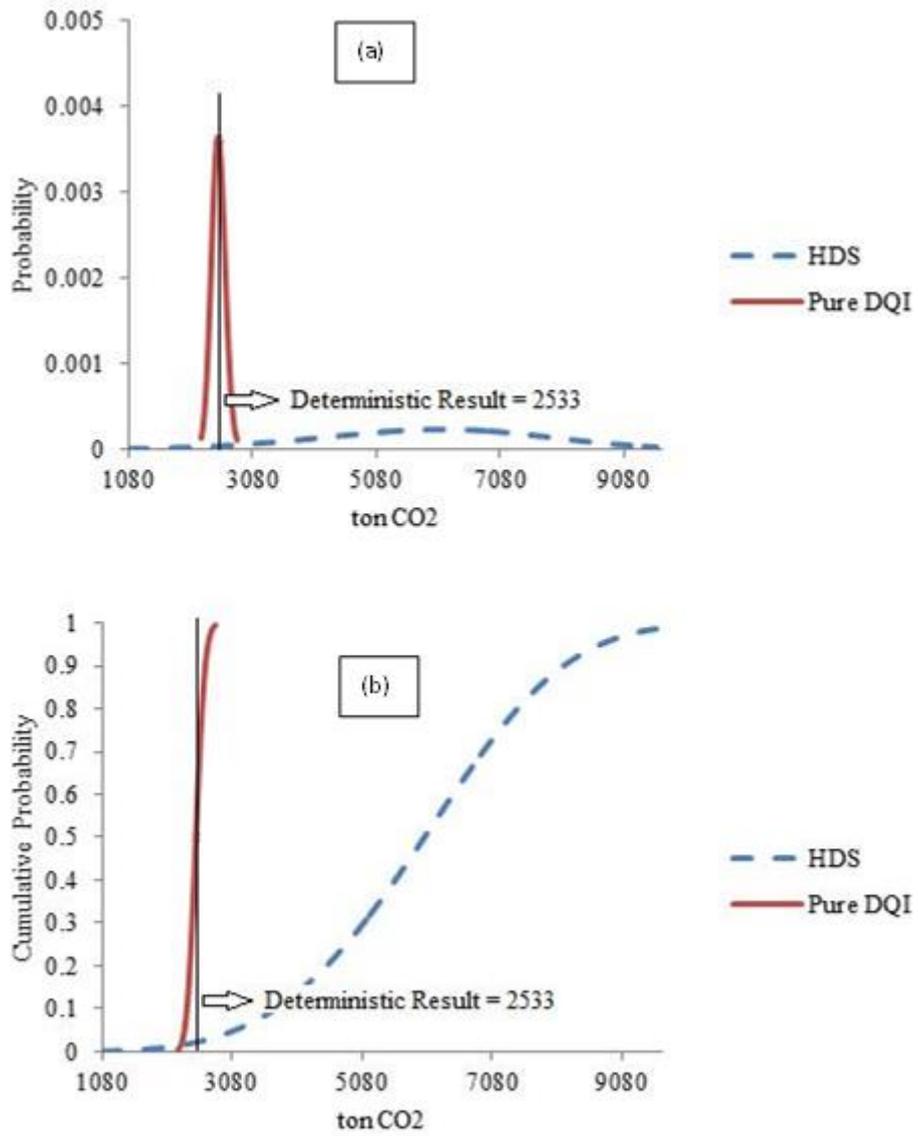
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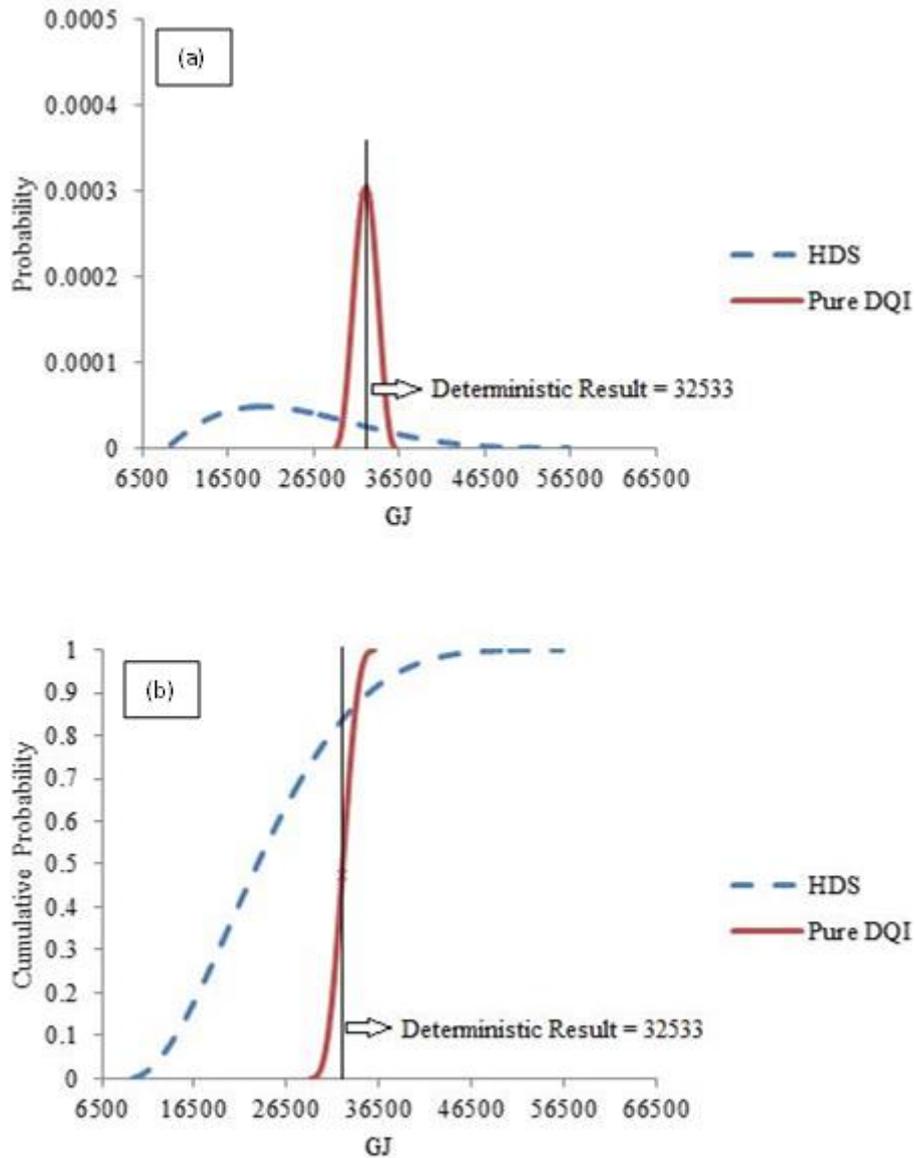
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Figure 11 (a) TIO 4 Embodied Carbon PDF results; (b) TIO 4 Embodied Carbon CDF results

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377 Figure 12 (a) TIO 4 Embodied Energy PDF results; (b) TIO 4 Embodied Energy CDF results

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379 **4.4 Comparison of Statistical and HDS Methods in terms of Data Requirements**

380 It can be seen that from the procedure of the HDS approach which categorizes critical
 381 parameters and uses the statistical method to estimate their probability distributions, the reliability
 382 of the HDS results are not greatly jeopardized. According to Wang and Shen (2013), the statistical
 383 method requires at least 30 data points to estimate one parameter distribution. Hence in this study,
 384 46 parameter distributions are required to be estimated for each case study with the exception of
 385 TIO 1 which has 48 parameter distributions for estimation. If the statistical method was
 386 implemented, at least 1380 (see Eq. 9) data points would have been required for the estimation for
 387 each case study. That would mean 6900 data points across all the case studies. This would have been

388 very time consuming even if all the data points were available. The HDS requires only 120 data
389 points for each case study (600 data points across all the case studies) thus reducing the data
390 requirements by approximately 91%. This avoids the issue associated with lack of data, and saves
391 cost and time without seriously compromising the reliability of the HDS results as the critical
392 parameters identified explain the majority (at least 69%) of the overall uncertainty across all the
393 case studies.

394 **4.5 Discussion**

395 This study uses the HDS approach to provide insight into potential technological
396 advancements for a 1.5 MW wind turbine and makes evident how variability of input parameters
397 results in differing embodied energy and embodied carbon results. Analysing the parameter
398 categorization revealed that EF's and EEC's for Steel, Normal concrete, Steel (no alloy), CFRP and
399 Cast iron accounted for the majority of output uncertainty in embodied energy and embodied
400 carbon results. Steel is the main material component of the baseline wind turbine, followed by
401 normal concrete. The large contribution of steel is probably attributed to the wide EF and EEC
402 distributions assigned to steel in the probability distribution estimations. Therefore any uncertainty
403 in steel EF's and EEC's is magnified by the sheer mass of steel. Interestingly although the mass of
404 concrete (575 tons) is greater than the mass of steel (144 tons), steel EF's and EEC's contribute more
405 to the overall uncertainty of embodied energy and embodied carbon. For example, the EF's of steel
406 ranges from 0.01 – 5.93 tonCO₂/ton steel, whereas values for concrete range from 0.02 – 0.28
407 tonCO₂/ton. Likewise, the EEC's for steel range from 8.6 – 51 GJ/ton steel, whereas values for steel
408 (no alloy) range from 8.3 – 50.7 GJ/ton. Concrete generally is much less emission intensive than steel
409 for CO₂ and hence, is a lesser contributor to the sensitivity of embodied carbon. It can also be
410 observed that while normal concrete EF and steel (no alloy) EEC contribute 9% each, steel EF and
411 steel EEC contribute 78% and 62% respectively to the resulting uncertainty. This highlights the
412 influence of the wider distribution range of steel (no alloy) EEC compared to normal concrete EF.
413 Due to the wide distribution ranges and mass of steel, variations in steel EF's and EEC's have
414 significantly more impact on the embodied energy and embodied carbon uncertainty even though
415 there is normally more concrete than steel.

416 For TIO 1, normal concrete and steel are also major material components of the turbine with
417 575 tons and 141 tons respectively. However CFRP contributes considerably to the resulting
418 uncertainty, second only to steel, while having a mass of 8.6 tons (1% of the turbine mass). This can
419 be attributed to CFRP being very emission and energy intensive. The EF's for CFRP range from 11.2 –
420 86.3 tonCO₂/ton CFRP, compared to the steel EF range of 0.01 – 5.93 tonCO₂/ton steel. Similarly, the

421 EEC's for CFRP range from 55 – 594 GJ/ton CFRP compared to the steel EEC range of 8.6 – 51 GJ/ton
422 steel. Hence due to the wide distribution ranges in CFRP EF and EEC input factors, despite its minor
423 mass contribution, CFRP has a considerable impact on the uncertainty of the embodied energy and
424 embodied carbon. For TIO 2, the major material components are normal concrete and CFRP with
425 575 tons and 88.5 tons respectively. Despite being second in mass to steel, CFRP contributes 99%
426 and 97% of the resulting uncertainty for embodied carbon and embodied energy respectively. This is
427 attributed to its high emission intensity, energy intensity and wide distribution ranges. As a result,
428 CFRP significantly impacts the uncertainty of the embodied energy and embodied carbon.

429 Normal concrete and steel are the major material components in TIO 3 with 575 and 144
430 tons respectively. The contribution of steel to the final resulting uncertainty is again attributed to
431 the range of values of EF's and EEC's. Cast iron has a mass of 21 tons and EEC values ranging
432 between 11.7 – 94.5 GJ/ton which could explain the lesser contribution of steel EEC to the resulting
433 uncertainty for the embodied energy (66%) compared to the steel EF contribution for embodied
434 carbon (81%). For TIO 4, the major material components are normal concrete with 575 tons and
435 CFRP with 97 tons. CFRP contributes 98% and 97% of the resulting uncertainty for embodied carbon
436 and embodied energy respectively. Again the sheer tonnage of CFRP combined with its high
437 emission and energy intensity, and wide distribution ranges results in its significant contribution to
438 the resulting uncertainty of the embodied energy and embodied carbon.

439 The intention of quantifying uncertainty with the HDS approach in this study is to provide
440 more information for the design decision making process. From the above case studies, it is assumed
441 that the deterministic result is used for design scheme selection aiming to find an embodied carbon
442 and embodied energy saving design. The design for the baseline turbine is already accepted since it
443 is commercially available. If the design was rejected, in terms of embodied carbon, there would have
444 been an about 85% probability (Fig. 3b) Enercon may have lost the chance to reduce carbon
445 emissions with the design. Thus, it is a good design in terms of embodied carbon savings. In terms of
446 embodied energy if the design was rejected, there would have been a 50% probability (Fig. 4b)
447 Enercon may have lost the chance to reduce the primary energy consumed during manufacture. The
448 TIO's proposed in this study are design concepts. Hence if the design for TIO 1 is accepted by a
449 manufacturer, in terms of embodied carbon, there will be an about 85% probability (Fig. 5b) that the
450 manufacturer may lose the chance to reduce carbon emissions with this design. Hence, it is not a
451 good design in terms of embodied carbon savings. In terms of embodied energy, if the design is
452 accepted, there will be a 40% (Fig. 6b) probability that the manufacturer may lose the chance to

453 reduce the primary energy consumed. This design thus performs better in terms of embodied energy
454 savings.

455 If the design for TIO 2 is accepted, results show that for embodied carbon, there is almost a
456 99% probability (Fig. 7b) the manufacturer may lose the chance to reduce carbon emissions hence
457 making it a bad design. For embodied energy, results show that if this design is accepted, there is
458 about a 20% probability (Fig. 8b) the manufacturer may lose the chance to reduce the primary
459 energy consumed making it a good design in terms of embodied energy savings. The huge difference
460 in the results, despite CFRP's contribution of 99% and 97% to the resulting uncertainty for embodied
461 carbon and embodied energy, can be attributed to the differences in distribution ranges of steel (no
462 alloy) and normal concrete EEC and EF input factors. EEC values of steel (no alloy) range from 8 – 51
463 GJ/ton compared to EF values of concrete that range from 0.02 – 0.28 tonCO₂/ton. This highlights
464 how variations in EF and EEC values significantly affect results of embodied carbon and embodied
465 energy LCA.

466 Results show that for embodied carbon if the design for TIO 3 is accepted, there will be a
467 15% probability (Fig. 9b) that the manufacturer may lose the chance to reduce carbon emissions
468 with this design. It is therefore a good design in terms of embodied carbon savings. For embodied
469 energy, results show that if this design is accepted, there is about a 65% probability (Fig. 10b) the
470 manufacturer may lose the chance to reduce the primary energy consumed. This design therefore
471 performs better in terms of embodied carbon savings. If the design for TIO 4 is accepted, in terms of
472 embodied carbon, there would be about a 99% probability (Fig. 11b) that the manufacturer may lose
473 the chance to reduce carbon emissions making it a bad design. For embodied energy, results show
474 that if this design is accepted, the probability that the manufacturer may lose the chance to reduce
475 the primary energy consumed is about 15% (Fig. 12b) making it a good design in terms of embodied
476 energy savings. The difference in the results, despite CFRP's contribution of 98% and 97% to the
477 resulting uncertainty for embodied carbon and embodied energy, could again be attributed to
478 reasons described in TIO 2.

479 A direct comparison of this study with the few wind turbine LCA studies employing
480 stochastic modelling to propagate uncertainty is difficult due to different assumptions which include
481 scope of study, turbine capacities, background data and use of the pure DQI approach. For these
482 reasons the wind turbine environmental impacts reported in different studies vary. As there are no
483 other wind turbine studies employing the HDS methodology, one of the few closest studies
484 available in literature for comparison is Khan et al. (2005) for which if the wind turbine design is
485 accepted by a manufacturer, there is 95% probability that the manufacturer may lose the chance to

486 reduce the life cycle Global Warming Potential. This suggests that given the scope of this study, the
487 life cycle Global Warming Potential results compare well with the embodied carbon results for TIO 2
488 and TIO 4. From the results of the different case studies, more information was gained for decision
489 making using the HDS approach compared to the DQI. The confidence level which is an important
490 factor for decision making was observed and it can be seen that the DQI approach gave more
491 conservative results, consistent with conclusions in Venkatesh et al. (2010), Tan et al. (2002) and
492 Lloyd and Ries (2007), which could lead to unreliable decisions. For example, the results for all the
493 case studies showed the pure DQI approach giving a 50% probability making any decisions made
494 using the pure DQI quite unreliable. Thus the HDS approach is a useful alternative for the evaluation
495 of deterministic wind turbine embodied energy and embodied carbon LCA results when knowledge
496 of the data uncertainties is required. The baseline wind turbine therefore performs best in terms of
497 an embodied energy and embodied carbon saving scheme.

498 **5.0 Conclusions and future work**

499 In this paper the suitability of the HDS method in estimating data uncertainty in
500 deterministic embodied carbon and embodied energy LCA results and its application to decision
501 making is examined through case studies. In order to evaluate the reliability of the HDS method,
502 first, embodied carbon and embodied energy results were estimated deterministically. Then for each
503 case study, using DQI and HDS methods, the effect on uncertainty estimates for embodied energy
504 and embodied carbon are investigated. In performing the uncertainty analysis, the reliability
505 measures MRE and CV are considered. Using the results obtained the following conclusions are
506 drawn.

507 Firstly, with respect to the use of both methods, the HDS approach demonstrated its
508 effectiveness in evaluating deterministic 1.5 MW wind turbine embodied carbon and embodied
509 energy results. MRE and CV results show that the HDS approach far outperforms the DQI. In other
510 words, a strong argument could be made to advocate for the use of the HDS over DQI when
511 accuracy of the uncertainty estimate is paramount. Secondly, for the class of the problem at hand,
512 similar conclusions can be drawn in terms of embodied energy and embodied carbon for all case
513 studies. Uncertainty in the results largely depends on distribution ranges of the input parameters.
514 This is magnified by the mass of the materials which result in the overall contributions to the
515 uncertainty. Hence, it is shown that a strong relationship exists between material mass and input
516 parameter distribution ranges. Thirdly, when comparing the different turbine designs based on the
517 studied cases, the results were quite clear. With the performance improvements incorporated using
518 the TIO's, the baseline turbine had the best embodied carbon and embodied energy performance.

519 Therefore, when all the criteria are considered, the potential investor must decide whether the
520 environmental benefits for a particular design are worth the investment.

521 It is important to note that the NREL baseline turbine design represents a composite of wind
522 turbine technology available in 2002. Clearly, technology has changed since 2002 and these changes
523 are not incorporated into the current analysis. Future studies may conduct uncertainty analysis using
524 the HDS approach to analyse these technological changes in the development of newer wind
525 turbines and other renewable technologies. This would be another excellent application for the HDS
526 methodology. It will also be interesting to study the consequence of variations for BOM (Table 10) in
527 order to see the impact on uncertainty estimates of embodied energy and embodied carbon. Such a
528 study would however require abundant sources of aggregated data for the material quantities of a
529 wind turbine.

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685 **APPENDIX**

BOM

	Material	Mass	Unit	Total
3 Blades	Aluminium	99	kg	16152
	Fibre Glass	6564	kg	
	Epoxy resin	4548	kg	
	Hardener	1575	kg	
	Polyamide	228	kg	
	Polyethene	684	kg	
	PVC foam	837	kg	
	PVC	393	kg	
	Paint	552	kg	
	Rubber	165	kg	
	Others (iron)	507	kg	
Tower	Steel	144182	kg	153094
	Galvanised steel	4695	kg	
	Paint	4217	kg	
Generator	Copper	8988	kg	40690
	Steel sheet	17927	kg	
	Steel (no alloy)	13258	kg	
	Steel (galvanised, low grade)	105	kg	
	Steel (alloy, high grade)	14	kg	
	Paint	150	kg	
	Others	248	kg	
Rest of nacelle	Steel (no alloy)	10780	kg	51591
	Steel (alloy, low grade)	9101	kg	
	Steel (galvanised, low grade)	1224	kg	
	Cast steel	3708	kg	
	Cast iron	21027	kg	
	Aluminium	127	kg	
	Copper	293	kg	
	Fibre glass	924	kg	
	Unsaturated polyester resin	2159	kg	
	Electronics	120	kg	
	Paint	504	kg	
	Others	1624	kg	
Grid Connection	Steel sheet	1300	kg	27734
	Steel (alloy, low grade)	927	kg	
	Steel (alloy, high grade)	630	kg	
	Steel (galvanised)	715	kg	
	Steel (for construction)	741	kg	
	Iron	1042	kg	
	Copper	6119	kg	
	PVC	747	kg	
	Gear oil	940	kg	
Rest of electrics	1065	kg		

	Electronics	1283	kg	
	Light weight concrete	12000	kg	
	Others	225	kg	
	Normal concrete	575000	kg	
Deep foundations	Steel (construction)	26300	kg	614709
	Steel (no alloy)	13243	kg	
	PVC	166	kg	

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